

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification as follows, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following paragraph:

An architecture is proposed for an optical node in a wavelength division multiplexed network. The optical node may be an optical add/drop node. Conventional add/drop nodes utilize a broadcast or blocking architecture. In a broadcast architecture, a copy of an optical signal is dropped to a drop path of a node while another copy continues on a through path. Thus, channels that occupy a specific portion of wavelengths (or spectrum) prior to the node are not available for use subsequent to the add/drop connectivity. In a blocking architecture, at least the through path (and often the drop path) is spectrally filtered. This permits wavelength reuse for add/drops in subsequent portions of the network. Disclosed is an optical node architecture that enables starting with a low cost approach, such as broadcast, but includes connections to permit 'in-service' upgrade to a more capable architecture. Increasing spectral reuse is enabled through the architecture.